



257867

March 28, 1998

Mr. Brad Bradley
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Bradley,

✓ This past Tuesday (5-27-98), I talked to you about forms I had received from OHM Remediation Services requesting permission to test my yard for lead contamination though it had been tested in 1993. You explained that the old boundary for testing had ran
✓ down the middle of Benton Street and that the boundary had recently been extended to include the odd-numbered side of the street as well. It was probably a mistake that I had received the forms.

I could have let it end right there. However, architects are generally suspicious of contractors,

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and I have seen too many "60 Minutes" stories where contractors rip off the federal government at the taxpayers' expense. And so, I called OHM to get their version of the story. I tried unsuccessfully to reach Mr. Jon Boyer at OHM several times. Finally, I talked to him on the phone at about 3:30 pm, 5-28-98. He explained that I could have my yard retested. He said that many yards had been found to have higher lead levels when tested again. The four yards to my north (away from downtown Granite) had been replaced as well as several to the south. It was odd that everyone around me had lead contamination (above 500 ppm), and my yard didn't. It was not a mistake that the forms were mailed to me. He said he had tried to call me at home and had left a message on my answering machine. Enclosed is that tape where Jon Boyer says that I could have my yard retested.

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As I said before, architects don't trust contractors. There may not be anything improper going on here. However, I will put this matter of retesting (and the tape) into your hands to decide.

Sincerely,

Steve A. Galayda

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Granite City, IL 62040